United Nations A/58/361–S/2003/877

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 September 2003
English
Original: Russian

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Item 158 of the provisional agenda*
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 11 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. I. S. Ivanov, on the occasion of the anniversary of the tragic events of 11 September 2001 in the United States (see annex).

I should be grateful if this statement could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 158 of the provisional agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sergei **Lavrov**

* A/58/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 11 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. I. S. Ivanov

On the occasion of the anniversary of the tragic events of 11 September 2001 in the United States

It has been two years since the terrible tragedy struck the American people on 11 September 2001. Human memory is fallible and time obliterates many events. But that day, when the blue sky above New York was darkened by a black cloud of dust from the crumbling skyscrapers, will live in the world's history. And not only because thousands of innocent people remained buried for ever under the rubble, whose lives were cut off by a terrorist act of unprecedented cruelty and perfidy — people from dozens of countries, including the Russian Federation.

That day marked the beginning of a new phase in the struggle for the survival of mankind, in the struggle with new threats and challenges. It became clear to everyone that this struggle can be won only if the international community acts together, as one.

As we remember the tragedy in New York, we also mourn the "Nord-Ost" victims in Moscow and the United Nations staff members, led by Sergio Vieira de Mello, who perished in Baghdad. And there have also been many other innocent victims of terrorism in the most diverse corners of our planet.

The weapon of terrorism is murder, and those who commit these crimes are murderers. This must be said loud and clear. We must not allow the memory of the innocent victims to be defiled by referring to the terrorists as "freedom fighters" or "defenders of the faith". We must not remain indifferent as the terrorists and their protectors, sowing fear and panic, try to destabilize the situation in individual countries and in whole regions.

In memory of all those who died at the hands of terrorists, and on behalf of the living, all States and all responsible politicians must decisively oppose terrorism in all its manifestations and take effective measures to combat this common evil.

The Russian Federation has adopted and will continue to adopt a firm and uncompromising position in this regard.